



## **SESSION 5: COVID-19 and Financial Protection**

Date: Tuesday July 21, 2020

Time: 8:00 to 9:30 am EST (USA and Canada)

Zoom meeting (with French, Spanish interpretation)

### **OVERVIEW:**

While the focus in health financing during the COVID-19 crisis has largely been on raising sufficient funds for the response, in the short term the pandemic is also likely to increase unaffordability of health care and in the medium term it could raise the risks of financial catastrophe and impoverishment due to out-of-pocket health payments (OOPs). This is partly due to reduced employment and household incomes as well as changes in utilization patterns or in policies linked to OOPs.

This session will explore financial protection in this context. In particular, it will look at whether all OOPs for COVID-19 health services are free, and what has happened to OOPs for other health services. The session will also discuss the extent to which existing policy options can be tailored, depending on a country's macro fiscal and health financing conditions, to decrease the populations at risk of facing catastrophic and impoverishing health expenditures. Additional issues that will be examined include whether people are avoiding other needed health services because of lower incomes or the fear of infection with COVID-19, as well as how to maintain financial protection at a time of reduced GDP per capita, government revenues and household incomes.

### **SESSION OBJECTIVES:**

Examining country experiences, this session plans to tackle questions such as:

- How are COVID-19 services charged at the point of care?
- What is happening to OOPs for non-COVID-19 health services?
- What is the status of public health facilities with respect to capacity?
  - Where public facilities are near or at capacity, are people who ordinarily would seek care there being referred to the private sector?
  - If so, what does this mean for OOPs overall?
- What is the the private sector's response in the country overall?
- What do we know, what do we need to know and what type of policy responses should we consider to foster financial protection in health?
- What are the key policy implementation challenges?

### **SESSION PANELISTS:**

Welcome remarks and moderator:

- Sven Neelsen, Economist, Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice, World Bank



Overview presentation:

- **Patrick Eozenou**, Senior Economist, Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice, World Bank

Panelists:

- **Dr. Camilo Cid Pedraza**, Regional Advisor in Health Economics and Financing, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- **Dr. Luis Gonzalez Machado**, Director General, Junta Nacional de Salud (National Health Agency), Ministry of Health, Government of Uruguay
- **Elena Piriz**, Economist, Junta Nacional de Salud (National Health Agency), Ministry of Health, Government of Uruguay
- **Dr. Alex Mutanganayi**, COVID-19 Response Team Leader, Save the Children DRCS
- **Dr. Prastuti Soewondo**, Professor, School of Public Health Administration and Health Policy, University of Indonesia